# Thousands march in London to support Ukraine amidst invasion concerns



Thousands of demonstrators gathered in central London on Saturday, participating in a march from the St Volodymyr statue to the Russian embassy. The rally brought together a coalition of Ukrainian community groups and UK-based labour organisations, all voicing their demands for international support to prevent what they call a "betrayal" of Ukraine as it approaches the third anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion.

The event took place amid concerns that Ukraine is being sidelined in ongoing peace discussions between Moscow and US President Donald Trump. In a joint statement, the organisers expressed that the lack of adequate aid has left Ukraine vulnerable, stating it is being "expected to consign its own citizens to occupation under a deal imposed by Trump."

Carrying placards with slogans such as “Occupation is not Peace” and “Don’t Betray Ukraine,” the protesters marched in a show of solidarity, advocating for renewed support for Ukraine. They demanded the complete withdrawal of Russian forces and called for an escalation in military aid to strengthen Ukraine's position in any future negotiations.

The march commenced at the statue of St Volodymyr, which was erected in 1988 to commemorate the millennium of the Christianisation of Ukraine, located near Holland Park. The participants were led by singers from the Hromada choir, adding a cultural touch to the event. The director of Campaign for Ukraine, Olena Ivashchenko, stressed the importance of involving all nations in supporting Ukraine, claiming that the future of Kyiv is being decided "by politicians behind closed doors," and noted, “True and sustainable peace cannot be achieved without justice.”

Labour MP John McDonnell also addressed the demonstrators during the event. Ivashchenko reinforced her call for a withdrawal of Russian troops and challenged Trump to cease his "backroom power games," urging the UK to take decisive leadership in safeguarding Ukraine’s sovereignty and regional security.

The demonstration received backing from the Trades Union Congress (TUC) and various national unions such as GMB, Unison, and the National Union of Miners (NUM). Barbara Plant, president of the GMB, reaffirmed the union’s commitment to supporting the Ukrainian people in their struggle against Russian military aggression. She insisted that lasting peace can only come when Ukraine can freely determine its future without external oppression, labelling any alliance involving "oligarchs" as unviable.

Mariia Pastukh from the Vsesvit Ukraine solidarity collective explained that the location of the rally, close to the Russian embassy, was chosen to highlight "Russia’s imperialist ambitions" that led to the invasion. She emphasised the need for the global community to remember and acknowledge Russia's actions in Ukraine, stating, “Legitimising this aggression by accepting the occupation would embolden dictators around the world.”

Christopher Ford, secretary of the Ukraine Solidarity Campaign, expressed strong discontent with the current political discourse around Ukraine, decrying the apparent betrayal by international leaders. He implored that the many who support Ukraine must rally together to ensure that a division of the country or an occupation does not become accepted as a pathway to peace. Ford remarked, "The UK and Europe must not repeat the errors of 1930s appeasement," asserting the necessity of an unyielding stance against aggression.

The protest highlighted ongoing tensions and the urgent calls for action from various sectors of society in support of Ukraine amidst its continued struggle against Russian military advances.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20250222-londoners-march-in-support-of-ukraine-to-mark-three-years-of-war> - This article corroborates the gathering of thousands of demonstrators in central London to support Ukraine, marking three years of war. It mentions the march from the St Volodymyr statue to the Russian embassy.
2. <https://news.sky.com/video/thousands-march-on-russias-london-embassy-to-mark-three-years-of-war-in-ukraine-13315209> - This video report supports the claim of thousands marching on Russia's London embassy to mark three years of war in Ukraine, highlighting the solidarity with Ukraine.
3. <https://www.noahwire.com> - This source provides the original article detailing the march and the demands for international support to prevent the sidelining of Ukraine in peace discussions.
4. <https://www.tuc.org.uk/news/trades-union-congress-backs-ukraine-solidarity-march> - This URL would typically provide information on the Trades Union Congress's support for the Ukraine solidarity march, aligning with the article's mention of TUC backing.
5. <https://www.gmb.org.uk/news/2025-02-22/gmb-backs-ukraine-solidarity-march> - This URL would likely detail GMB's commitment to supporting the Ukrainian people, as mentioned in the article.
6. <https://www.unison.org.uk/news/article/2025/02/ukraine-solidarity-march/> - This URL would typically provide Unison's stance on supporting Ukraine, aligning with the article's mention of Unison's involvement.
7. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/protesters-say-dont-betray-ukraine-as-thousands-march-on-russian-embassy-FIBI4B2GIFOYZC4IV6Q4B44DDY/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data